

A SPEECH  
MADE BY  
Queen ELIZABETH,  
(Of Famous Memory) In

PARLIAMENT,

Anno 1593. And in the 35th Year of HER REIGN,

CONCERNING

The Spanish Invasion.



*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

**T**His Kingdom hath had many Wife, Noble, and Victorious Princes: I will not compare with any of them in Wisdom, Fortitude, or any other Vertues: But saving the Duty of a Child, that is not to compare with his Father in Love, Care, Sincerity, and Justice, I will compare with any Prince that ever you had, or shall have.

It may be thought Simplicity in Me, that all this time of My Reign I have not sought to advance My Territories, and enlarge my Dominions; for Opportunity hath served me to do it. I acknowledge my Womanhood and Weakness in that Respect; But though it hath not been hard to obtain, yet I doubted how to keep the things so obtained: And I must say, My Mind was never to invade My Neighbours, or to Usurp over any; I am contented to Reign over My Own, and to Rule as a Just Princess.

Yet the King of Spain doth Challenge Me to be the Quarreller, and the Beginner of all these Wars; in which he doth Me the greatest Wrong that can be, for My Conscience doth not accuse My Thoughts wherein I have done him the least Injury: But I am persuaded in My Conscience, if he knew what I know, he himself would be sorry for the Wrong that he hath done Me.

I fear not all his Threatnings; his great Preparations and mighty Forces doth not stir Me: For, though he come against Me with a greater Power than ever was his Invincible Navy, I doubt not (God assisting Me, upon Whom I always trust), but that I shall be able to defeat and overthrow him: I have great Advantage against him, for My Cause is just.

I heard say, when he attempted his last Invasion, some, upon the Sea Coast, forsook their Towns, and flew up higher into the Country, and left all naked and exposed to his Entrance: But, I swear unto you, if I knew those Persons, or any that should do so hereafter, I will make them know and feel what it is to be so fearful in so urgent a Cause.

[The Queen protests She will punish Cowards.]

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The Subsidies you give Me, I accept thankfully, if you give Me your good Wills with them; but if the Necessity of the Time, and your Preservations, did not require it, I would refuse them. But, let me tell you, that the Sum is not so much, but that it is needful for a Princess to have so much always lying in Her Coffers, for your Defence in time of Need, and not to be driven to get it when We should use it.

You that be Lieutenants and Gentlemen of Command in your Countries, I require you to take Care that the People be well Armed, and in Readiness upon all Occasions. You that be Judges and Justices of the Peace, I Command and straightly Charge you, That you see the Laws to be duly Executed, and that you make them living Laws, when We have put Life into them.

## A Second Speech OF QUEEN ELIZABETH

(Of Famous Memory) 1601, in the 44<sup>th</sup> Year of Her Reign.

*Mr. Speaker,*

WE have heard your Declaration, and perceive your Care of Our State, by falling into the Consideration of a Grateful Acknowledgment of such Benefits as you have received; And that your Coming is to present Thanks unto Us, which I accept with no less Joy, than your Loves can have desire to offer such a Present.

I do assure you, there is no *Prince* that loveth his *Subjects* better, or whose Love can countervail Our Love. There is no *Jewel*, be it of never so rich a Price, which I set before this *Jewel*; I mean, Our Love: For I do more esteem of it, than of any *Treasure* or *Riches*; for that We know how to prize, but *Love* and *Thanks* I count unvaluable.

And, though God hath raised Me high, yet this I count the Glory of My Crown, That I have Reigned with your Loves. This makes me that I do not so much rejoice, That God hath made me to be a *Queen*, as, to be a *Queen* over so thankful a People.

Therefore, I have Cause to wish nothing more, than to Content the *Subjects*; and that is a *Duty* which I owe: Neither do I desire to live longer days, than that I may see your Prosperity; and that's My only Desire.

And as I am that Person that still (yet under God) hath delivered you, so I trust (by the Almighty Power of God) that I still shall be His Instrument to preserve you from Envy, Peril, Dishonour, Shame, Tyranny, and Oppression; partly by means of your intended Helps, which We take very acceptably, because it manifests the largeness of your Loves and Loyalty to your Sovereign.

Of My Self, I must say this, I was never any greedy scraping *Grasper*, nor a straight, fast-holding *Princess*, nor yet a *Waster*. My Heart was never set on worldly Goods, but only for My Subjects good. What you do bestow on Me, I will not hoard it up, but receive it to bestow on you again: Yea, My own Properties I count yours, and to be Expended for your good; and your Eyes shall see the bestowing of all, for your good. Therefore render unto them from Me, I beseech you, *Mr. Speaker*, such *Thanks* as you imagine My Heart yieldeth, but My Tongue cannot express.

WITH ALLOWANCE.